UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/002,693	10/31/2001	Mark S. Buehler	021556.0139	4673

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2157	

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 October 2001*.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.   Claims **1-8, 11-16** and **18-24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by Whitmire et al (hereinafter, "Whitmire", 6,167,403).

As per claims **1** and **18**, Whitmire discloses a method and program product for

issuing custom traps for a network containing disparate network devices, the method

comprising:

- storing a custom trap in a network manager, wherein the custom trap includes a

  triggering condition for a selected device among the network devices (abstract,

  col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and

  col. 28, lines 19-26);

- monitoring the selected device to detect whether the triggering condition has

  been met (col. 21, lines 45-67 and col. 22, lines 25-50); and

- in response to detecting that the triggering condition has been met, automatically

  issuing the custom trap (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26,

  lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claim **11**, Whitmire discloses a system for issuing custom traps for a network

containing disparate network devices, the system comprising:

- a network manager in communication with the network devices (abstract, col. 2,

  lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28,

  lines 19-26);

- a trap list in the network manager (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6,

  col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26);

- a custom trap in the trap list, wherein the custom trap includes a triggering

  condition for a selected device among the network devices (abstract, col. 2, lines

  56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines

  19-26); and

- control logic in the network manager that monitors the selected device to detect

  whether the triggering condition has been met and automatically issues the

  custom trap in response to detecting that the triggering condition has been met

  (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines

  19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claims **2** and **19**, Whitmire discloses:

- wherein the operation of automatically issuing the custom trap comprises

  automatically issuing the custom trap from the network manager to an

administrative workstation (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26,

lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claims **3** and **20**, Whitmire discloses wherein:

- the operation of storing the custom trap comprises storing the custom trap in a

    Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent in the network manager

    (abstract, col. 3, lines 41-49, col. 6, lines 36-60 and col. 22, lines 35-45); and

- the operation of automatically issuing the custom trap comprises automatically

    issuing the custom trap from the SNMP agent to an administrative workstation

    (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines

    19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claim **4**, Whitmire discloses wherein:

- the selected device includes a device trap (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines

    1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26); and

- the operation of automatically issuing the custom trap comprises automatically

    issuing the custom trap from the network manager to an administrative

    workstation in lieu of forwarding the device trap (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col.

    3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claims **5, 13** and **21**, Whitmire further discloses:

- receiving user input defining the custom trap, wherein the user input specifies an

    attribute of the selected device and a value for the triggering condition (abstract,

    col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claims **6, 14** and **22**, Whitmire further discloses:

- receiving user input defining multiple custom traps, wherein the user input specifies different alert levels for at least two of the multiple custom traps (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claims 7, **15** and **23**, Whitmire discloses:

- wherein the operation of storing a custom trap comprises storing a triggering condition that is based on attributes of two or more devices among the network devices (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claims **8** and **24**, Whitmire discloses wherein the selected device comprises:

- a first selected device and the custom trap comprises a first custom trap (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26);

the method further comprising:

- storing a second custom trap for a second device (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26);

- using a first network protocol to monitor the first selected device (col. 21, lines 45-67 and col. 22, lines 25-50); and

- using a second network protocol to monitor the second selected device (col. 21, lines 45-67 and col. 22, lines 25-50).

As per claim **12**, Whitmire discloses wherein the network contains:

- network contains an administrative workstation list (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26); and

wherein the network manager further comprises:

- a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent (abstract, col. 3, lines 41-49, col. 6, lines 36-60 and col. 22, lines 35-45);

- the network manager stores the custom trap in the SNMP agent (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26); and

- the SNMP agent automatically issues the custom trap to the administrative workstation (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

As per claim **16**, Whitmire discloses wherein:

- the selected device comprises a first selected device (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26);

- the custom trap comprises a first custom trap (abstract, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26);

- the trap list includes a second custom trap for a second device (abstract, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26); and

the network manager further comprises:

- a first management bean that uses a first network protocol to monitor the first selected device (col. 21, lines 45-67 and col. 22, lines 25-50); and

- a second management bean that uses a second network protocol to monitor the

  second selected device (col. 21, lines 45-67 and col. 22, lines 25-50).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 9-10, 17 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Whitmire in view of Compliment et al (hereinafter, "Compliment", 6,360,260).

As per claims 9, 17 and 25, Whitmire discloses the invention substantially as claims

discussed above.

However, Whitmire does not explicitly disclose:

- accepting registrations from multiple network management stations; and

- consulting the registrations to identify a recipient for the custom trap.

Compliment discloses an apparatus and method which allows an SNMP managed

device to register with a Network Management system including:

- accepting registrations from multiple network management stations (abstract,

  col. 2, lines 54-67, col. 3, lines 1-25, lines 56-60, col. 5, lines 24-47, col. 8, lines

  30-56, col. 9, lines 49-67 and col. 10, lines 1-15); and

- consulting the registrations to identify a recipient for the custom trap (abstract, col. 2, lines 54-67, col. 3, lines 1-25, lines 56-60, col. 5, lines 24-47, col. 8, lines 30-56, col. 9, lines 49-67 and col. 10, lines 1-15).

Given the teaching of Whitmire, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Compliment's teachings of an apparatus and method which allow an SNMP managed device to register with a network management system with the teachings of Whitmire, for the purpose of enabling a managed device to send a special auto discovery frames to a network management station until the device is discovered allowing the device to monitor communications between itself and the management station and restarts the registration process if communication is lost or impaired [see Compliment, col. 3, lines 54-67]. Thus Whitmire provides the motivation to combine to by utilizing a network management system as well as improving a network management by enabling a system manager to select trap definitions and issuing traps according to parameter being monitored by the system manager [see Whitmire, col.2, lines 56-66 and col. 26, lines 24-33].

As per claim **10**, Whitmire discloses wherein:

- the multiple network management stations comprise first and second network management stations (col. 6, lines 36-50);

the method further comprising:

- storing a first set of custom traps in a first trap list and storing a second set of custom traps in a second trap list (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26); and

- associating the first network management station with the first trap list and

  associating the second network management station with the second trap list,

  such that the custom traps in the first set are issued to the first network

  management station and the custom traps in the second set are issued to the

  second network management station (abstract, col. 2, lines 56-67, col. 3, lines 1-

  6, col. 26, lines 19-45, col. 27, lines 19-67 and col. 28, lines 19-26).

However, Whitmire does not explicitly disclose:

- accepting registrations from multiple network management stations

Compliment discloses an apparatus and method which allows an SNMP managed

device to register with a Network Management system including:

- accepting registrations from multiple network management stations (abstract,

  col. 2, lines 54-67, col. 3, lines 1-25, lines 56-60, col. 5, lines 24-47, col. 8, lines

  30-56, col. 9, lines 49-67 and col. 10, lines 1-15).

Given the teaching of Whitmire, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill

in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Compliment's

teachings of an apparatus and method which allow an SNMP managed device to register

with a network management system with the teachings of Whitmire, for the purpose of

enabling a managed device to send a special auto discovery frames to a network

management station until the device is discovered allowing the device to monitor

communications between itself and the management station and restarts the registration

process if communication is lost or impaired [see Compliment, col. 3, lines 54-67]. Thus

Whitmire provides the motivation to combine to by utilizing a network management

system as well as improving a network management by enabling a system manager to

select trap definitions and issuing traps according to parameter being monitored by the

system manager [see Whitmire, col.2, lines 56-66 and col. 26, lines 24-33].

Conclusion

5.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,828,830 to Rangaraian et al

U.S. Pat. No. 6,721,791 to Qiao

U.S. Pat. No. 5,842,164 to Fine

U.S. Pat. No. 6,182,157 to Schlener et al

U.S. Pat. No. 6,009,431 to Anger et al

U.S. Pat. No. 6,253,243 to Spencer

U.S. Pat. No. 5,758,083 to Singh et al

U.S. Pat. No. 5,751,967 to Raab et al

U.S. Pat. No. 5,561,769 to Kumar

U.S. Pat. No. 5,822,534 to Yamunachari et al

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to LaShonda T Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-

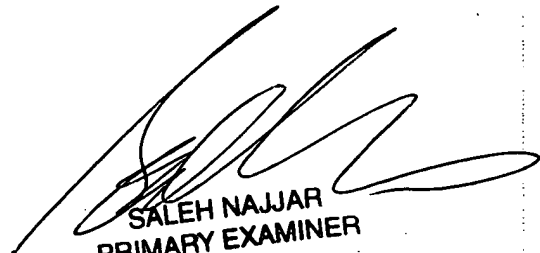4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
December 21, 2004

SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER